

INTERNAL USE ONLY

76-8347/10

26 July 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : SIGINT Task Force

Hank:

The SIGINT Task Force is about to assemble. We start as a group on 9 August. Before we get deeply into our work, it would be helpful if you got us together along with Bill Wells and Les Dirks to say a few words (suggest 9 August at 1400 hours). It is important that we start with emphasis from you on the seriousness of our undertaking and on the fact that this is not just another feckless exercise. You might wish to say something along the following lines:

The recommendations you will make to me in January are extremely important to me and to this Agency. You will be setting a new course for SIGINT in CIA.

I want to make it very clear that this is not just a damage-limiting exercise. I think the damage is already done. I also think that Congress will dictate what our role in SIGINT is going to be unless you come up with new ideas about the CIA SIGINT mission, about its organization and its relationship to the rest of the Intelligence Community, particularly NSA.

INTERNAL USE ONLY

And I assure you that the Executive Advisory Group and I are prepared to carry out those recommendations whenever they make good sense.

Unless we do this and do it in a clear and effective way, there will be little or no future for SIGINT in CIA.

It is vital that CIA have a mission in the SIGINT world which it can justify to itself, to Congress and to the Executive Branch.

Budgetary pressures on CIA require that we find additional ways to save money and positions. Therefore, it is necessary that you look carefully at organizational and other measures which will give us such savings.

I therefore encourage you to think imaginately, without parochialism and with your eye on the creation of something new, exciting and different which will serve CIA and the course of intelligence for at least another quarter century.

To do all this in the few months you have, you must be prepared to put your minds fully on the Agency problem without regard to on-going operations, existing organizational structures or the bureaucratic difficulties that could arise from any major changes you may propose.

ATINTL is to keep me informally apprised of your progress. You will also report periodically to the Executive Advisory Group. If any problems arise that you cannot solve, I am asking Les and Bill to give you their full support. Needless to say, you may count also on mine.

As you get more deeply involved in considering what changes need to be made, it would not be unnatural for you to be concerned about the effects of such changes on your own careers and on the careers of others in the SIGINT area. I can only assure you that any resulting changes will be effected in an orderly manner and that good people need have no fear for their personal futures in CIA.

INTERNAL USE ONLY

Distribution:

Original - Addressee

1 - Comptroller

1 - Ex Reg

TAT

--

INTERNAL USE ONLY

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM			
UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL	
		SECRET	
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	DDCI		
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
	ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
	APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
	COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
	CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
Remarks: <p>Hank:</p> <p>There are still some people around who don't believe this exercise is for real. Therefore I thought you might help us kick the whole thing off.</p>			
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER			
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.			DATE
2 D 11 UNCLASSIFIED			26 July
Approved For Release 2004/12/20 : CIA-RDP79M00467A002400030002			SECRET